

REMARKS

The Office Action of August 30, 2004 has been received and its contents reviewed. Claims 1-13 are pending for consideration in this application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in view of the arguments below.

Claims 1-5, 9 and 13 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,699,572 issued to Yamamoto et al. (Yamamoto). Specifically, the Office asserts that although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because Yamamoto claims an aromatic polyimide film bonded to a copper foil using a thermoplastic polyimide layer, and that all other properties claimed in the instant invention are deemed to be inherent properties since the compositions of the aromatic polyimide film and the thermoplastic polyamide are same.

In response, Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) as this application and Yamamoto are commonly owned. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Yamamoto. Specifically, the Office asserts that the applied reference has a common assignee and also common inventor Toshihiko Anno with the instant application, and that based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, Yamamoto constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). In addition, the Office provides that, for applications filed on or after November 29, 1999, this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) might be overcome by showing that the subject matter of the reference and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

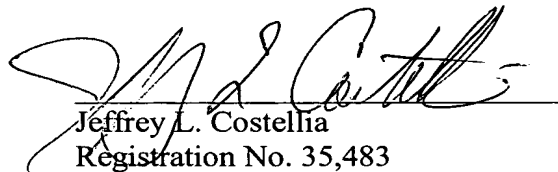
In response, Applicants submit the following statement pursuant to MPEP § 706.02(l)(2):

The present application, Application Serial No. 10/622,471, and U.S. Patent No. 6,699,572 issued to Yamamoto et al. were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by Ube Industries, Ltd.

Accordingly, since this application and Yamamoto were commonly owned by virtue of an obligation of assignment to Ube Industries, Ltd. at the time of the invention of this application, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,



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